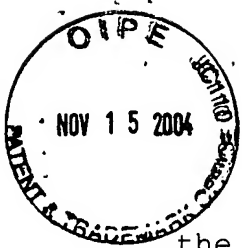


In static applications, actuation of the latches may be sufficient to retain the male component of a two-part connector and engagement with the female component thereof. However, in vehicular applications and other applications in which substantial and/or sustained vibration is encountered, the latches have been found to be inadequate to the task of securing the male component of a two-part connector in engagement with the female component thereof. Thus, a need exists for a retaining device which secures the component parts of a two-part connector in engagement with one another irrespective of substantial or sustained vibration or other adverse circumstances.



The female component 22 is provided with latches 24 located at the opposite ends thereof. As the male component 12 is engaged with the female component 22 of the two-part connector 10, the latches 24 are pivoted or cammed outwardly. When the male component 12 is fully seated within the female component 22, the latches 24 engage the latch engaging members 18 of the male component 12 to secure the male component into engagement with the female component 22. The latches 24 are adequate to retain the male component 12 in engagement with the female component 22 in static applications of the two-part connector 10, but have been found to be inadequate in circumstances in which the two-part connector 10 is subjected to substantial and/or continuing vibration. Such applications include vehicular applications and similar applications.